

JOURNAL OF BRITISH STUDIES

ANNUAL REPORT 2004

This year has been taken up with the transition to the new journal which will begin in January 2005 with volume 44. The decision to merge *Albion* with the *Journal of British Studies* at the last council meeting was made without much attention to the details of the transition beyond agreeing that the University of Chicago Press should continue to publish *JBS*. In the event, it has been left primarily to the editors to sort out the practicalities. Those practicalities were principally determined by the production process. If the new journal was to appear on schedule, then the first issue had to be ready to go to press in late July/August 2004. The applications for new editors did not close until the end of March 2004. Consequently it was quite impossible for the new team to assume responsibility of the first or even the second issue of the journal. In effect, the six-month lead time to production meant that the current editors would be responsible for the first two issues, with the new editor and her team formally taking over with the July 2005 issue.

The editors are pleased to report that the transition is running reasonably smoothly. Along with the current President of the NACBS, Cynthia Herrup, they met the press in March and discussed the style, format, and size of the new journal and the production schedule. That schedule was complicated by the fact that the press had some production difficulties of its own in the spring, resulting in the delay of the 43/2 (April 2004) issue. The summer was consequently a season of catch-up, but under the supervision of the new production manager, Kelli Morrison, and with the efficiency of the editorial assistant, Linda Pygiel, we have indeed caught up. The October 2004 issue of *JBS* should appear on time, and so, too, should the first issue of the new-style journal, which went to press in early August 2004.

The first issue of the new-style journal will feature the following articles:

Christopher Marsh, "Order and place in England 1580-1640: a view from the pew."

Sarah Ellenzweig, "The Faith of Unbelief: Rochester's 'Satyre,' deism, and religious freethinking in 17th century England."

John Seed, "Dissenting Histories: Memory, History and Religious Dissent in 18th century England."

Tim Pratt and James Vernon, "'Appeal from this Fiery Bed': The Colonial Politics of Gandhi's Fasts and their reception in Britain."

It will also feature a roundtable discussion concerning "Whiteness in Ireland under and after the Union" with contributions by G.K. Peatling, L. Perry Curtis, Jnr., John Belchem and David A. Wilson. There will also be six review articles. In view of the fact that the last issue of *Albion* 36/4 (Winter 2004) will be appearing at roughly the same time, the editors decided it was better to publish their outstanding review essays in this transitional

issue. This would give greater latitude to the new editors in their balance of reviews and review essays.

In the second issue of the new journal, *JBS* 44/2 (April 2005), there will be a special feature on English masculinities, 1500-1950, with contributions by Alexandra Shepard, Karen Harvey, Michèle Cohen, John Tosh and Michael Roper. There will likely be two other articles, namely, one by Pramod Nayar, "Marvellous Excesses: British Travel Writing and India, 1608-1727," and by Ina Zweinger-Byietevski, "The Culture of the Abdomen: Obesity and Reducing in Britain, c. 1900-1939." There will also be about 30 reviews.

In order to facilitate the transition, several other initiatives were taken. In June, the new review editors, Claire Schen and Patrick McDevitt of the University of Buffalo came up to Toronto to discuss the journal with Nick Rogers and the editorial assistant, Linda Pygiel. They were gracious enough to begin assuming responsibility for new reviews and took away with them a pile of books that had yet to be assigned to reviewers. Various efforts were subsequently made to alert publishers to the fact that the review section of the journal had moved to Buffalo, with mixed success. But we trust that yet another round of email messages and phone-calls will finally achieve the goal of having reviewable books sent south of the border. What books currently remain in Toronto will be driven to Buffalo by car in late September.

The editors also note that the new review editors have been in contact with Michael Moore, who will be handing over a batch of reviews that will not make *Albion's* final issue but will be included in the July 2005 issue of *JBS*.

On the editorial side, the editors contacted the editor-elect, Anna Clark, during the summer and invited her to begin reading the new submissions. Since June there has been a trio of Clark, Epstein and Rogers vetting incoming submissions and deciding which should be sent to readers. This has worked smoothly. In the 43/4 (October 2004) it was announced that future submissions should go to Anna Clark and her team at Minnesota. We anticipate, therefore, that submissions to *JBS* will begin to flow to Minnesota in November. In the following month the essential files of the Toronto office will be sent there.

This year (from 1 Sept 2003 to 31 August 2004) *JBS* received a total of 68 submissions, very much in line with the previous year. Of these, 4 were in the medieval period, 16 in the early modern (1450-1700), 15 in the 18th century, 14 in the 19th century and 19 in the 20th century. This is a good spread, chronologically, with the usual exception of the medieval era, where we continue to receive relatively few submissions. We did, however, publish one of these papers, on marital disputes in Chancery, in the 43/3 (July 2004) issue, and it is anticipated that another will be published in the near future.

Of the 68 submissions, 44 (65%) were rejected. Of the others, nine have been provisionally accepted and fifteen are in process. A further five (beyond those to be

published in the first two issues of the new journal) are ready for publication. These had been submitted in the previous year.

In all likelihood the editors will be passing on 14-15 articles to the new team for the July 2005 issue and beyond. That is to say, in the expanded format, they will be passing on enough material for at least two issues.

The editors would like to thank Anna Clark, Claire Schen and Patrick McDevitt for agreeing to come on board before their prescribed debut. This has helped smooth the transition to the new journal.

Nick Rogers
James Epstein
Editors.